

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (CANCELLED)

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A spacer for attaching onto a printed wiring board to which is fixed an electronic component having a component package, ~~on one of whose surfaces a connection terminal is arranged~~, said spacer comprising a single-piece elastic member with no ends thereof,

 said elastic member being detachably attached to the printed wiring board in such a way as to enclose the electronic component to seal a gap between the electronic component and the printed wiring board, and

 said elastic member being attached to and detached from the printed wiring board, by exploiting elastic deformation of said elastic member, wherein said elastic member has a frame-like shape with an inner outline which is similar in shape to an outline of the component package, and is smaller in length than the outline of the component package, and is thinner than the gap between the electronic component and the printed wiring board.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A spacer for attaching onto a printed wiring board to which is fixed an electronic component having a component package, ~~on one of whose surfaces a connection terminal is arranged~~, said spacer comprising an elastic member with no ends thereof,

 said elastic member being detachably attached to the printed wiring board in such a way as to enclose the electronic component to seal a gap between the electronic component and the printed wiring board, and

 said elastic member being attached to and detached from the printed wiring board by exploiting elastic deformation of said elastic member,

 wherein said elastic member has a frame-like shape with an inner outline which is similar in shape and length to an outline of the component package and is thinner than the gap between

the electronic component and the printed wiring board, and

wherein the frame-like shape has a pair of hook portions for projecting into the gap between the electronic component and the printed wiring board, the hook portions being provided on the inner outline of the frame-like shape to oppose to each other.

4. (ORIGINAL) A spacer as set forth in claim 2,

wherein the frame-like shape has an outer outline greater in length than the outline of the component package, and

wherein the frame-like shape has at least one slit thereon extending from the inner outline toward the outer outline of the frame-like shape.

5. (ORIGINAL) A spacer as set forth in claim 3,

wherein the frame-like shape has an outer outline greater in length than the outline of the component package, and

wherein the frame-like shape has at least one slit thereon extending from the inner outline toward the outer outline of the frame-like shape.

6. (ORIGINAL) A spacer as set forth in claim 4, wherein the frame-like shape has a round hole formed at one end of the slit.

7. (ORIGINAL) A spacer as set forth in claim 5, wherein the frame-like shape has a round hole formed at one end of the slit.

8. (ORIGINAL) A spacer as set forth in claim 6, wherein the round hole functions as a jig hole for use in removing the spacer from the electronic component and the printed wiring board.

9. (ORIGINAL) A spacer as set forth in claim 7, wherein the round hole functions as a jig hole for use in removing the spacer from the electronic component and the printed wiring board.

10. (CANCELLED)

11. (CANCELLED)

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A spacer for attaching onto a printed wiring board to which is fixed an electronic component having a component package, ~~on one of whose surfaces a connection terminal is arranged~~, said spacer comprising a single-piece elastic member with no ends thereof,

said elastic member being detachably attached to the printed wiring board in such a way as to enclose the electronic component to seal a gap between the electronic component and the printed wiring board, and

said elastic member being attached to and detached from the printed wiring board, by exploiting elastic deformation of said elastic member,

wherein said elastic member has a frame-like shape with an inner outline which is similar in shape to an outline of the component package, and said elastic member, while in contact with the printed wiring board, is attached around the component package by pressure due to the elastic deformation of said elastic member, and

wherein the frame-like shape has a catch protrusion on its inner outline, which catch protrusion protrudes into the gap between the electronic component and the printed wiring board.

13. (CANCELLED)

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A printed circuit board, comprising:
an electronic component having a component package, ~~on one of whose surfaces a connection terminal is arranged~~;

a printed wiring board to which said electronic component is fixed; and

a spacer formed as a single-piece elastic member with no ends thereof detachably attached to said printed wiring board in such a way as to enclose said electronic component to seal a gap between said electronic component and said printed wiring board, said elastic member being attached to and detached from said printed wiring board, by exploiting elastic deformation of the elastic member.

wherein the elastic member has a frame-like shape with an inner outline which is similar in shape to an outline of the component package, and is smaller in length than the outline of the component package, and is thinner than the gap between the electronic component and said printed wiring board.

15. (CANCELLED)

16. (CANCELLED)

17. (CANCELLED)

18. (CANCELLED)

19. (CANCELLED)

20. (CANCELLED)

21. (CANCELLED)